

Phillip and Sam

Little Sister

I smelled Los Angeles before I got to it. It smelled stale and old like a living room that had been closed too long. But the colored lights fooled you. The lights were wonderful. There ought to be a monument to the man who invented neon lights. Fifteen stories high, solid **marble**. There's a boy who really made something out of nothing.

Sam in the Age of Feeling

*Sam Spade, Euro-Sleuths,  
Neon, and Women*

Sam saw the love-sex thing  
as just another scam, like neon.  
where Guy created something  
out of nothing, making foul air glow  
as it choked you

Euro-Sleuths twisted up  
by Women, devious  
and natural, must steal

time from sordid cases  
to domesticate personal  
lives of chaos

containing, thereby, emotion.

Some, raising two families  
should quit the game.

Whose turn is it  
to pick up

what's his little name  
at school?

Fercrisakes! Internationally  
Pussy-Whipped, stand back

for Sam! Stow  
the posh flat

version of the seedy  
neighborhood Lothario

in favor of man  
who doesn't  
need a thing!